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SENATE RESOLUTION 62
By Williams

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Fayette Seal for laudable service to the people of Tennessee as a storyteller.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those persons who through their outstanding efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders and consummate professionals of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Fayette Seal, who is a fantastic storyteller and who is renowned as the "Bard of Sneedville"; and

WHEREAS, born in 1913, Mr. Seal bases most of his stories on a family cemetery located on the side of Short Mountain, one-quarter mile away from his home; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Seal was named after Jean Laffite, the smuggler, pirate, and patriot who fought for General Andrew Jackson during the Battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812; and

WHEREAS, Fayette Seal, a wholesome family man at heart, recounts the following in one of his many ghost stories: *"The cemetery was 50 years away. I looked all around to see if somebody was spotlighting me, everything all up and down the road was dark. Like I said, there*

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was no shadow, just a circle of light in a 6-foot radius all around me. I could see my feet plain as day..."; and

WHEREAS, the family cemetery, which is the common thread in Mr. Seal's stories, is the resting place of members of the Sneedville community dating back to the early 1800s; and

WHEREAS, he speaks of fireballs that run across the grasslands of Short Mountain, a phenomenon that residents of the area have actually reported seeing; Mr. Seal's son, Doug, theorizes that the light from his father's stories are actually "gas jack-o-lanterns," or luminescent gases released from nearby caves; and

WHEREAS, Fayette (pronounced **fate**) wrote his first short story at the age of 7; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Seal lives simply in a small house heated by an oil-and-kerosene stove at the head of a hollow near the top of Short Mountain, just north of Sneedville; and

WHEREAS, in his quiet and noble existence, Mr. Seal has vitalized and rejuvenated the minds and imaginations of young and old citizens of the Sneedville community alike with his fascinating and informative storytelling; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Fayette Seal for his dedication to the state of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and commend Fayette Seal for his meritorious service to the Sneedville community of Tennessee as an informative and inspiring storyteller who has worked assiduously to keep the great folk tradition of storytelling alive, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.